

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-15 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been amended. Claims 8-15 have been added. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 3 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c). Since claim 3 has been cancelled, this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stein, U.S. Patent No. 6,322,860. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including "when the substrate member is

heated, the first and second insulating layers keeping water in the substrate member from escaping from the substrate member”. Support for the above combination of elements can be found on paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5. Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed nor suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner.

Stein discloses a plastic substrate for electronic display application including a plastic sheet 1, crosslinked coatings 2 on both sides of the plastic sheet, and gas barrier layers 3 on the crosslinked coatings 2 (see FIGs. 2 and 3). Stein also teaches that the barrier layer 3 can reduce gas, moisture, or solvent permeation into the plastic sheet (see col. 10, lines 1-9). Stein fails to teach using the barrier layers 3 to “[keep] water in the substrate member from escaping from the substrate member” when the substrate member is heated.

To further clarify the present invention, Applicants respectfully submit that the insulating layers as recited in claim 1 is to keep the water in the substrate member from escaping from the substrate member when the substrate member is heated, not to prevent the outside gas, moisture, or solvent permeation into the substrate member. By keeping the water in the substrate member, the substrate member would be able to keep a homogeneous material property without warping. Applicants respectfully submit that Stein fails to teach this feature.

Since Stein fails to teach each and every limitation of amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of Stein. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 8-15 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Dependent claim 8 recites a combination of elements including "the first insulating layer contacts the first side of the substrate member and the second insulating layer contacts the second side of the substrate member". As shown in FIGs. 2 and 3 of Stein, the barrier layers 3 do not contact both sides of the plastic sheet 1. Therefore, Stein also fails to teach the combination of elements as set forth in claim 8.

Independent claim 9 recites a combination of elements including "when the diffuser is heated by the lamp, the first and second insulating layers keeping water in the diffuser from escaping from the diffuser". As mentioned, Stein merely teaches that the barrier layer 3 can reduce gas, moisture, or solvent permeation into the plastic sheet but fails to teach using the barrier layer 3 to keep water in the diffuser from escaping, Stein fails to teach the combination of elements as set forth in claim 9.

Dependent claim 10 recites a combination of elements including “the first insulating layer contacts the first side of the diffuser and the second insulating layer contacts the second side of the diffuser”. As mentioned, the barrier layers 3 do not contact both sides of the plastic sheet 1. Therefore, Stein also fails to teach the combination of elements as set forth in claim 10.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 11-15 are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claim 9, as well as due to the additional recitations included in these claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 8-15 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

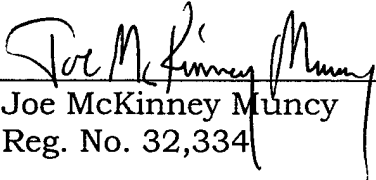
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  _____
Joe McKinney Muncy
Reg. No. 32,334

KM/GH/mmi
4299-0122P

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000